

REMARKS

I. Claim Rejections under Double Patenting

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-17 and 19-40 on the grounds of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over the claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,905,170. A Terminal Disclaimer is submitted herewith to overcome this rejection.

II. Improper Final Rejection

Applicant respectfully notes that the Final rejection in this instance was improper.

Given that this application was filed as a continuing application of the now-cited prior art reference as well as the fact that all but one of the claims had been previously allowed, Applicant contends that the minor amendments to the claims did not necessitate the new grounds of rejection.

Nonetheless, the entry of the aforementioned Terminal Disclaimer herewith renders this rejection moot.

III. Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the independent claims are allowable over the prior art of record, including the cited references. For similar reasons, and for the additional reasons set forth above, Applicant urge that the dependent claims are also allowable.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and

complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



By: Dennis J. M. Donahue, III, Reg. No. 43,591
Husch & Eppenger, LLC
190 Carondelet Plaza
St. Louis, MO 63105
314-480-1500
314-480-1505 FAX